

Continuation Application -- Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following recitation of pending claims:

Claims 1. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A method for downloading applications stored in an application database that is coupled to a cellular communication network, said method comprising:

 connecting a first mobile terminal with the application database through the cellular communication network, the application database containing at least one application having a selectable lifetime;

 choosing an application of the at least one application for downloading to the first mobile terminal;

 providing the application database with information identifying a user of the first mobile terminal;

 selecting a lifetime for the chosen application, during which lifetime the chosen application is executable;

 downloading the chosen application from said application database to the first mobile terminal; and

 storing indicia of the selected lifetime for the chosen application and of the information identifying the user, wherein the stored indicia corresponds to the selected lifetime during which the chosen application is further executable at mobile terminals accessible by the user.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of downloading the chosen application is performed over a wireless connection.

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25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the indicia is stored in an application-license database in connection with the application database.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the information identifying the user is based on SIM information.

30. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
receiving in the application database a request from the user for a subsequent downloading of a previously-downloaded application;

determining whether lifetime remains by reference to the stored indicia of the selected lifetime for previously-downloaded application for the user; and

downloading the application a subsequent time, if it is determined that at least a portion of the selected lifetime remains for the requested application.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the request is received from a second mobile terminal.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the subsequent downloading comprises downloading the application to a second mobile terminal.

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33. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of refusing the request for subsequent downloading if the determination indicates that lifetime has expired in the stored indicia for said user.

34. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of downloading is performed over a wireless connection.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the short-range connection is infrared connection.

38. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a period of time measured from a predetermined starting time.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined starting time is the time of downloading the chosen application.

40. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a predetermined number of downloads.

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41. (New) In a communication system having at least one mobile terminal capable of communicating by way of a radio link with network infrastructure, the at least one mobile terminal having memory for at least one application, an improvement of apparatus for downloading an application to the at least one mobile terminal, said apparatus comprising:

an application database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application database containing at least one downloadable application, the application having a selectable lifetime during which the application is permitted to remain executable by an identified user;

a detector coupled to the network infrastructure, the detector for detecting a request containing information identifying a user to download a chosen application of the at least one application contained at the application database, the detector for obtaining the application from the application database, and for downloading the application to the at least one mobile terminal to be installed thereat;

an application-license database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application-license database for storing the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information; and

a downloading server, the downloading server coupled to the detector, the downloading server coupled to the application database, and the downloading server coupled to the application-license database;

wherein the downloading server is configured to compare the download request to the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information stored in the application-license database for the chosen application, wherein the downloading server downloads said application if the user has application lifetime remaining for the requested application.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said downloadable application is preprogrammed with the selected lifetime, wherein the downloadable application deletes itself from the at least one mobile terminal when the selected lifetime expires.

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43. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the selected lifetime expires as a function of a selected number of transactions.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the lifetime expires as a function of a selected time.